

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method for managing a schedule for a project comprising the steps of:
2 receiving inspection results over a network from two or more authorized task
3 inspectors, wherein the authorized task inspectors were selected to
4 perform an inspection of a project task assigned to a particular
5 individual;
6 based on the inspection results, automatically updating a task schedule
7 associated with the particular individual assigned to perform the
8 project task, wherein the project task is not completed unless all
9 inspection results indicate that the project task is completed; and
10 automatically updating a management schedule by providing a summary of
11 aggregated tasks associated with the project, based on one or more
12 updated task schedules.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1 wherein an attribute of the task schedule is defined by
2 a policy specifying that a project task cannot be partially completed and the
3 step of automatically updating the task schedule is performed according to
4 the policy.
- 1 3. The method of claim 1 further comprising a step of:
2 upon completion of a project task, storing a product of the project task in a
3 database wherein access to the product by one or more authorized
4 individuals is regulated.

1 4. The method of claim 3 wherein the step of storing the product of the project
2 task includes the step of storing the product for accessing over a packet-based
3 network.

1 5. The method of claim 3 further comprising a step of:
2 creating a hyperlink in a Hypertext Markup Language (HTML) file for
3 accessing the project task product.

1 6. A method for managing project files over a network comprising the steps of:
2 receiving project initiation information that comprises a description of a
3 project and of one or more individuals performing a project task; and
4 upon approval of the project,
5 storing in a database the initiation information to indicate that the
6 project is approved, wherein the initiation information is
7 accessible over the network from a project site;
8 creating a directory of project files that are associated with the project;
9 storing the directory of project files in the database;
10 linking the directory of project files to the project site;
11 creating an individual site for each of the one or more individuals
12 performing a project task, wherein individual draft project files
13 stored in the database are linked to each of the associated
14 individual sites; and
15 linking the one or more individual sites to the project site.

1 7. The method of claim 6 wherein completion of a draft project file is defined as
2 passing inspection from at least two authorized inspectors, the method
3 further comprising the steps of:

upon completion of an individual draft project file, changing the status of the
draft project file to an official project file;
storing the official project file in the database, wherein access to the official
project file by one or more authorized individuals is regulated; and
linking the official project file to the project site.

8. The method of claim 6 further comprising the steps of:
receiving at least one task schedule for each individual performing a project
task;
storing the task schedule in the database; and
linking the task schedule to the individual site associated with the individual
for which the task schedule was received.

9. The method of claim 6 further comprising the steps of:
receiving a task schedule for each individual performing a project task;
storing the task schedule in the database; and
linking the task schedule to the project site.

10. The method of claim 6 further comprising the steps of:
compiling project files associated with one or more file types;
creating one or more indexes of project files wherein each index is associated
with one of the file types;
storing the one or more indexes of project files in the database; and
linking the one or more indexes of project files to the directory of project files.

11. The method of claim 6 further comprising the steps of:
receiving a task schedule for each individual performing a project task;

3 based on one or more task schedules, automatically updating a management
4 schedule comprising an aggregation of tasks associated with the
5 project; and
6 linking the management schedule to the project site.

1 12. A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions
2 for generating a schedule for a project, wherein execution of the one or more
3 sequences of instructions by one or more processors causes the one or more
4 processors to perform the steps of:
5 receiving inspection results over a network from two or more authorized task
6 inspectors, wherein the authorized task inspectors were selected to
7 perform an inspection of a project task assigned to a particular
8 individual;
9 based on the inspection results, automatically updating a task schedule
10 associated with the particular individual assigned to perform the
11 project task, wherein the project task is not completed unless all
12 inspection results indicate that the project task is completed; and
13 automatically updating a management schedule by providing a summary of
14 aggregated tasks associated with the project, based on one or more
15 updated task schedules.

1 13. The computer readable medium of claim 12 wherein an attribute of the task
2 schedule is defined by a policy specifying that a project task cannot be
3 partially completed and wherein execution of the one or more sequences of
4 instructions by one or more processors causes the one or more processors to
5 perform the step of automatically updating the task schedule according to the
6 policy.

1 14. The computer readable medium of claim 12 whereupon completion of a
2 project task, execution of the one or more sequences of instructions by one or
3 more processors causes the one or more processors to perform a step of
4 storing a product of the project task in a database whereby access to the
5 product by one or more authorized individuals is regulated and provided
6 over a packet-based network.

1 15. A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions
2 for managing project files over a network, wherein execution of the one or
3 more sequences of instructions by one or more processors causes the one or
4 more processors to perform the steps of:
5 receiving project initiation information that comprises a description of a
6 project and of one or more individuals performing a project task; and
7 upon approval of the project,
8 storing in a database the initiation information to indicate that the
9 project is approved, wherein the initiation information is
10 accessible over the network from a project site;
11 creating a directory of project files that are associated with the project;
12 storing the directory of project files in the database;
13 linking the directory of project files to the project site;
14 creating an individual site for each of the one or more individuals
15 performing a project task, wherein individual draft project files
16 stored in the database are linked to each of the associated
17 individual sites; and
18 linking the one or more individual sites to the project site.

1 16. The computer readable medium of claim 15 wherein completion of a draft
2 project file is defined as passing inspection from at least two authorized task
3 inspectors and wherein execution of the one or more sequences of
4 instructions by one or more processors causes the one or more processors to
5 perform the steps of:
6 receiving a task schedule for each individual performing a project task;
7 storing the task schedule in the database; and
8 linking the task schedule to the project site.

1 17. The computer readable medium of claim 15 wherein execution of the one or
2 more sequences of instructions by one or more processors causes the one or
3 more processors to perform the steps of:
4 receiving a task schedule for each individual performing a project task;
5 automatically updating a management schedule comprising an aggregation
6 of tasks associated with the project based on one or more task
7 schedules; and
8 linking the management schedule to the project site.

1 18. A computer system comprising:
2 a network interface; and
3 one or more processors connected to the network interface, the one or more
4 processors configured for
5 receiving inspection results over a network from two or more authorized task
6 inspectors, wherein the authorized task inspectors were selected to
7 perform an inspection of a project task assigned to a particular
8 individual;

9 based on the inspection results, automatically updating a task schedule
10 associated with the particular individual assigned to perform the
11 project task, wherein the project task is not completed unless all
12 inspection results indicate that the project task is completed; and
13 automatically updating a management schedule by providing a summary of
14 aggregated tasks associated with the project, based on one or more
15 updated task schedules.

1 19. The computer system of claim 19 whereupon completion of a project task the
2 one or more processors are further configured for storing a product of the
3 project task in a database whereby access to the product by one or more
4 authorized individuals is regulated and provided over a packet-based
5 network.

1 20. A computer system comprising:
2 a network interface; and
3 one or more processors connected to the network interface, the one or more
4 processors configured for
5 receiving project initiation information that comprises a description of a
6 project and of one or more individuals performing a project task; and
7 upon approval of the project,
8 storing in a database the initiation information to indicate that the
9 project is approved, wherein the initiation information is
10 accessible over the network from a project site;
11 creating a directory of project files that are associated with the project;
12 storing the directory of project files in the database;
13 linking the directory of project files to the project site;

14 creating an individual site for each of the one or more individuals
15 performing a project task, wherein individual draft project files
16 stored in the database are linked to each of the associated
17 individual sites; and
18 linking the one or more individual sites to the project site.

1 21. The computer system of claim 20 wherein completion of a draft project file is
2 defined as passing inspection from at least two authorized task inspectors and
3 wherein the one or more processors are further configured for
4 receiving a task schedule for each individual performing a project task;
5 storing the task schedule in the database; and
6 linking the task schedule to the project site.

1 22. The computer system of claim 20 wherein the one or more processors are
2 further configured for
3 receiving a task schedule for each individual performing a project task;
4 based on one or more task schedules, automatically updating a management
5 schedule comprising an aggregation of tasks associated with the
6 project; and
7 linking the management schedule to the project site.